June 29, 1978

EXCISE

583

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY John Simms DATE 2.26.81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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Sirs,

You should know that Guyana, South America has moved closer to the United States in recent months than ever before, and is trying seriously to remain uninvolved with the struggle of world powers. Likewise, the Peoples Temple is trying to stay out of political activity in Guyana, and is certainly not concerning itself with being aligned with Cuba or Russia. Peoples Temple is in South America making a good image for Americans, with its high quality medical services. That is all that Jim Jones wants to do these days, but the press keeps pouring out a flurry of conflicting reports. One week he's supposed to be a Maoist, the next week he's said to be leaning toward Castro. Next, he's said to be bob nobbing with the Soviet Union. It's all ridiculous. The fact is that Peoples Temple does not want to get involved period. Such beleaguering is cruel also in the effect it has on this newly emerging Third World nation of Guyana, which is closer to the U.S., as I've said, than ever in its history. I have heard that some of the left - - even socialists with whom the Temple had associated before their Guyana venture - - are now wondering why the Temple is so close to Guyana. They do not understand it from their point of view.

Much attention was given recently to a woman who left Guyana telling the usual gamut of lies, which by now is a repetition of charges that has been proven false as far as the State Department and Embassy are concerned, many times over. Her mother, brother, and husband, (who found out she had been involved in an outside relationship just prior to her leaving,) are living happily in Guyana, and the mother is saying that the reason for her lies is probably to cover for the large sum of the mother's money that the woman stole and took with her after her short stay at the project and only three months in Georgetown. The woman is also reported to have gotten back into her former problems with drugs and alcohol. Yet her lies were given priority coverage in the major media.

The Temple now is busying itself with the school they have built, and their agricultural experimental project. Both of these have drawn the attention of experts from Guyana and neighboring countries, and are regarded as models to be emulated. The relentless barrage of attacks in the media just don't make common sense!

Very Sincerely,

[redacted]

E BK